



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

DEC 11 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF
CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

SUBJECT: Change in the Department of Defense Afghanistan Drug Testing Policy

During the early phase of operations in Afghanistan, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict developed a mandatory 100 percent random drug testing policy for military members assigned to the theater for more than 60 days.

After reviewing the recent illicit drug positive metrics for deployed forces in Afghanistan, we have decided to suspend the mandatory 100 percent random testing policy. However, the Military Departments are encouraged to continue random drug testing of all deployed forces at the maximum extent allowed by operational tempo and available funding.

The point of contact for this action is Colonel Ronald Shippee, who may be reached at (703) 681-4348 or Ronald.Shippee@tma.osd.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Ward Casscells", is positioned above the printed name.

S. Ward Casscells, MD